

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 3 and 6 and leaves claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-6.

Upon review of the Office Action, it appears that the Examiner did not consider the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 20, 2001 along with the present application. A copy of said Information Disclosure Statement is attached herewith along with copies of the references cited therein. An indication that the Information Disclosure Statement has been considered is respectfully requested.

Amendments were made to the specification to correct minor errors grammatical and editorial in nature discovered upon review. Also, minor amendments were made to the claims to improve the language therein. The amendments being made to the claims were not intended nor should they be considered as amendments changing the scope of the claims so as to overcome prior art.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakamoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,633,571) in view of Luciani (U.S. Patent No. 6,614,791); and claims 3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakamoto and Luciani in view of Hurren (U.S. Patent No. 6,788,681). These rejections are rendered moot being that Sakamoto is not an appropriate reference to be used for obviousness type purposes to reject the claims of the present application being that Sakamoto qualifies as prior art only under 35 USC §102(e) and Sakamoto and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of

assignment to the same person, namely Hitachi, Ltd. The Examiner's attention is directed to the conditions for patentability/non-obvious subject matter under 35 USC §103(c) and MPEP §706.02(I)(1). Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

To appropriately establish common ownership of Sakamoto and the invention as set forth in the claims of the present application in accordance with MPEP §706.02(I)(2) the following is provided.

The undersigned hereby states that Sakamoto and the claimed invention as set forth in claims 1-6 of the present application were, at the time the invention was made, owned by Hitachi, Ltd., or subject to an obligation of assignment to Hitachi, Ltd.

Thus, Sakamoto does not constitute prior art in accordance with 35 USC §103(c) and therefore should be withdrawn. Accordingly, each of the above described rejections fail and should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The remaining references of record used in each of the rejections namely Luciani and Hurren whether taken individually or in combination with each other fail to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in the claims. Particularly, neither of these references teach or suggest the features now recited in the claims of a router connected to a core network, a first logical area network (LAN) belonging to a first virtual private network (VPN), a second LAN belonging to a second VPN, a third LAN belonging to a third VPN and fourth belonging to a fourth VPN as recited in the claims. Further, these references do not teach or suggest the first and second interfaces and the means for identifying as recited in the claims.

Thus, the remaining references Luciani and Hurren whether taken individually or in combination with each other fail to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in the claims. Therefore, claims 1-6 are allowable over the prior art of record.


The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 1-6.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 1-6 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-6 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (501.39836X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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